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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note: The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

NURSING IN INSTITUTIONS

Dear Editor: When I read your "Editorial Comment" in the January, 1917 JOURNAL, where you asked, "What is known of the nursing care of the sick in institutions for the blind, for the feeble minded, or in reformatories and prisons," I thought I would write and tell you something of my work in the Woman's Department of the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet. I am a graduate of one of the training schools of Illinois, class of 1905, and a registered nurse. After ten years of private duty nursing I took the state civil service examination for trained nurse. I was sent to the woman's prison, and have been here for seventeen months. I am the only nurse in the prison. I do not have anything to do with the work in the men's prison. There is no hospital in this department, but there is a small drug room. There is a resident doctor who comes over here two or three times a week, or as often as needed. As we have no operating room, we cannot do any major operations. We had a very successful one on a hand that was crushed and burned in the mangle in the laundry. When the women are sick they lie in their cells, which are very comfortable. There is a window, a toilet and running water in each one. I know that the reform schools for the boys and girls, and the state schools for the deaf and blind all have well equipped hospitals and nurses who are graduated from the state hospitals.

Illinois.

L. L. DeP.

SPRUE

Dear Editor: Sprue is a tropical disease to which foreigners are very susceptible; it attacks many business men and missionaries in the east. In India and Ceylon, cases have been known among the natives, but in Korea none have been reported as yet. The exact cause of the disease is not known, but considerable research work is being done to determine it; while bacteria and yeast have been suggested as the cause, mold is the most accepted theory. The symptoms are extreme emaciation, distressing flatulence, copious frothy gray stools, and sores in the mouth. In the treatment of this disease, physicians have advised diet and complete change of environment, such as leaving the tropics. A milk and egg diet, avoiding carbohydrates, is given. In the Philippines "606" has been given with fairly good results. A Korean missionary returned to America with this disease and lived in the southern part of California. After drinking a quart of orange juice every day for five months, she was reported cured. For the benefit of those who are returning to America with this disease, several physicians in different cities have made a study of it. One is located in San Francisco, another in New Orleans, still another in Chicago, and a fourth in New York City.

Korea.

D. M. B.

AS THE PLANT, THE FLOWER

Dear Editor: It is true that the measure of civilization may most nearly be determined by the care given the child. A girl, from her earliest childhood, should prepare herself for the most sacred duty of all, the bearing of